Atomic Research Centre experts have established that the equipment is safe for operation and that there is no exposure to radiation. All measures have been taken to safeguard the health of the workers from radiation.

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding for Purchase of HMS Hermes from UK

257. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently signed a memorandum of understanding with UK for the purchase of Royal Navy's aircraft carrier HMS Hermes for 60 million dollars which has become obsolete and was on the verge of being scrapped ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and in what manner the ship is likely to be useful for the Indian Navy even after it has been refurbished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding was concluded on the 13th March 1986, for the purchase of HMS Hermes. The agreement of sale has been signed with Ministry of Defence, U.K. on 19th April, 1986. The cost of the package is likely to be around 63 million dollars inclusive of dry-docking and refit, spares, stores and services.

In the light of the threat perception, the availability of second aircraft carrier is considered desirable. The aircraft carrier HMS Hermes has the facilities for operating Sea Harrier aircraft and Seaking helicopter, which are already part of the Indian Navy's air-arm. HMS Hermes will be fully operational when she joins the Indian Navy and is expected to serve till the end of the century.

Decisions at the National Integration Council

258. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the discussions held and decisions taken at the National Integration Council meet held on the 7th April, 1986 in New Delhi; and

(b) whether any decision has been taken in regard to ethnic conditions previaling in Sri Lanka ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) The National Integration Council Meeting held on 7-4-1986 deliberated on "National Integration and Communal Harmony, in the context of the situation in Punjab" The NIC adopted a resolution and set up a 21 members standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Jagjiva Ram to Function on a continuing basis. The task of the Standing Committee will be to formulate both short-term and long-term measures for preserving national integration in various aspects all over the country.

(b) No. Sir.

Use of indigenous components in Colour T.V. sets

259. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that one major Central public sector unit has come out with esigns of colour television sets uing maximum indigenous compon nts, including Integrated Circuits ;